

The morse code requirement should never be completely removed from amateur licensing.

If it is believed that the hobby will somehow grow more or benefit somehow with the requirement removed, then we MUST ask: if the code requirement is removed and the state of the hobby doesn't change for the better, what have we accomplished but to possibly prove the code wasn't the/a problem? Worse; that the code requirement was a good idea, and now you have a mess on your hands.

Our culture is so eager to move mountains out of the way so that the masses can drive, not walk or hike. Are we prepared to rebuild the mountains if we find they weren't really in the way? That maybe we needed them?

Are you prepared to reverse your decision if time proves removing code requirement was a mistake?

Most anti-code folks seem eager to claim the code requirement is holding them back. I suggest that they are holding themselves back.

You don't dismiss challenges, you rise to them. One of the great things about the code requirement is that you can't memorize the test answers. You can't fake it. You have to get off your butt and actually learn something.

Certainly, the "McJob" minimum wage job culture swelling in our country has showed, among other things, what can happen when you remove the stimulus of challenges; you start to suffer a significant reduction of mental growth and skill acquisition in your population.

The Ham radio community has already strayed far from its roots. We're already sitting on the easy chair, remote in hand, bag of chips in the other, email a click away. I don't see how we can hope to strengthen the community's legs by asking it to stop walking to the "old fashioned" mailbox once in while. It's not about whether or not snail mail is outdated and unnecessary. It's about getting out of your chair and moving.

If good old-fashioned Morse Code keeps even a minority of us up and moving, I'd be much happier with the state of the radio hobby. I'd rather be part of a smaller, smarter group of people who accept challenges (not just memorize test answers), than lost in a sea of Ham Radio McJobbers.

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